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One Hundred Seventeenth Congress of the United States House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

1309 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6157 202–225–2061 | CHA.HOUSE.GOV

November 4, 2022

RODNEY DAVIS, ILLINOIS RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

BARRY LOUDERMILK, GEORGIA
BRYAN STEIL. WISCONSIN

TIM MONAHAN MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. Aaron Ammons Champaign County Clerk 1776 E. Washington Street Urbana, IL 61802 aammons@co.champaign.il.us

Dear Clerk Ammons:

As Ranking Member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, which has broad oversight of our nation's federal elections, I write today to express my concern about reports of voting irregularities that occurred during the June primary and continue to occur in the run up to election day, next Tuesday, November 8th. Troubling allegations like voters being removed from the voter rolls without notice, inaccurate ballots being printed at certain precincts, polling locations not opening at the correct time, and unsecured ballots found in the front seat of a car belonging to an employee of your office do not inspire the confidence necessary for the American people to have faith in our elections.

America's decentralized elections system is the best in the world, and Republicans are committed to ensuring all eligible voters who want to participate are able to cast ballots and have those ballots counted according to law. Since last Congress, I have met with Secretaries of State, Lt. Governors, and local election administrators from states as wide-ranging as Alaska, Iowa, and New York, among others, to learn about and promote the many first-rate examples of excellence in election administration across the country. Unfortunately, rather than add to those efforts, situations like the one in Champaign County do real damage to voter confidence in our election systems and outcomes at a time when we can least afford it.

As you may know, the Committee on House Administration is charged by House Rules¹ to exercise the House's constitutional responsibility to serve as the final "Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its Members." As in past elections, the House will use this legal authority to credential and deploy trained congressional staffers to serve as official House election observers in close, or particularly cumbersome congressional elections, in the coming weeks. This allows us to prepare for the possibility that a candidate could later contest the race in the House of Representatives. The Committee takes seriously its responsibility regarding federal elections, and we are committed to making sure all lawful ballots in congressional races are counted fairly, accurately, and according to law.

In the interest of ensuring that all individuals eligible to vote have the opportunity to do so and that only lawful ballots are counted in the next federal election, please respond to the allegations listed above and what steps were taken to address the problems. Please also share any procedural or regulatory changes you will make to ensure similar incidents do not recur.

I look forward to your response. Please send your response and any questions you may have by November 11, 2022, to Caleb Hays, General Counsel and Deputy Staff Director, at Caleb.Hays@mail.house.gov.

¹ Rules of the United States House of Representatives, Rule X, https://rules.house.gov/sites/democrats.rules.house.gov/files/117-House-Rules-Clerk.pdf

² U.S. Const. Art. 1, Sec. 5, cl. 1.

³ House Election Observer Program, Comm. on H. Admin. (Republicans), https://republicans-cha.house.gov/election-observer-program.

⁴ See Rita Hart, Notice of Contest, Comm. on H. Admin. (filed Dec. 22, 2021), https://cha.house.gov/sites/democrats.cha.house.gov/files/documents/committee_docs/Notice%20Of%20Contest%20Hart%20v%20M iller-Meeks.pdf.

⁵ Correspondence from Ranking Member Davis to the Illinois State Board of Elections (Oct. 20, 2022)

Aaron Ammons, Champaign, Ill., County Clerk November 4, 2022 Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

Rodney Davis Ranking Member

Committee on House Administration

CC: Correspondence from Ranking Member Davis to the Illinois State Board of elections